



Skills Funding  
Agency

# Business Update

Issue 18  
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## Welcome

In this edition of Business Update, our round-up of business-critical news and information from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

1. [National Minimum Wage increase](#)
2. [The Skills Show](#)
3. [Updates to new apprenticeship Levy guidance](#)
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Business Update will inform you of our 'products' and services and their potential to make a positive impact upon your business.

Please share **Business Update** with your colleagues, who might like to register for **web alerts**. This will notify them by email when we add new editions to our website.

**Please note: Future issues of Business Update will be available only via web alerts and won't be issued by email.**

If you have any feedback, please email **Business Update**.

## 1. National Minimum Wage rate for under 25's increased

### Inform

On 1 October, the National Minimum Wage for apprentices, and workers under the age of 25, increased. All rates are listed on [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk).

The apprentice rate applies to apprentices under the age of 19, or those over 19 and in the first year of their apprenticeship. After their first year, apprentices must be paid at least the minimum wage rate appropriate to their age (including the National Living Wage if they are aged 25 or over).

As it is unlawful to pay under the National Minimum Wage, employers should make sure their payrolls are up-to-date.

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## 2. The Skills Show

### Inform

The Skills Show 2016 takes place 17 – 19 November at the NEC in Birmingham. It's the largest skills and careers event aimed at schools, colleges, employers, parents, families and young adults.

Further information can be found on the Skills Show can be found on their [website](#).

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## 3. Updates to new apprenticeship Levy guidance

### Inform

Through apprenticeships, employers can attract high-calibre candidates to their business; as well as nurture talent from within.

Apprenticeships bring the opportunity to strengthen and diversify the workforce, providing a future talent pipeline tailored to business. Apprentices bring enthusiasm and a fresh perspective, with 89% of employers saying that they make their business more productive.

The Apprenticeship Reform Programme gives greater control to employers to address their skills and knowledge gaps. The reforms are underpinned by the apprenticeship levy, which will be paid by employers with a pay bill of more than £3 million from April 2017.

From May 2017, employers who pay the levy will be able to access a new digital apprenticeship service that allows them to spend available funds on apprenticeship training.

Employers not paying the levy will benefit from a government contribution of up to 90% towards apprenticeship training costs. Smaller employers won't have to pay for apprenticeship training. All employers taking on 16-18 year olds will receive additional funding.

Click on the links to find out [whether you are eligible for the levy](#) and [estimate how much funding you will have to spend on apprenticeships](#).

We have published information and guidance on [changes to apprenticeships](#). If you would like to receive a notification by email when we publish new information on apprenticeships, please register for [web alerts](#).

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## 4. Find apprenticeship training is now live

### Inform

We are building the digital apprenticeship service to help you plan and manage your apprenticeship programme all in one place.

As part of the service, you can now use the new, easy-to-use find apprenticeship training function to quickly search for all available apprenticeships and training providers across England. You can find details of your chosen apprenticeship, as well as information about providers that can deliver the training.

Through [find apprenticeship training](#), you can:

- easily search for apprenticeships by job role or key word
- filter and sort results by level
- view summary information about each apprenticeship
- search for training organisations who offer a specific apprenticeship by postcode
- filter results by training options (for example, whether the training organisation delivers training on site)
- review information about each training provider, including contact details, satisfaction ratings and achievement rates.

This service contains details of training providers who currently offer apprenticeships. It will be updated in 2017 to reflect the new [Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers](#).

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## 5. Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers: open for applications

### Inform

From April 2017, if you wish to deliver apprenticeship training to your own staff, or to apprentices from other businesses, you will need to be on the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers (RoATP). This is a new register, administered by the Skills Funding Agency as part of the apprenticeship levy programme.

The RoATP is now open and will close on 25 November 2016.

If you wish to be on RoATP, there are a few steps that you need to take before you apply: Register with the UK Register of Learning Providers and obtain a provider reference number (UKPRN).

[<https://www.ukrlp.co.uk>]

Have an account on Bravo, the SFA's e-tendering portal

[<https://skillsfundingagency.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>]

Register with the Information Commissioner's Office for education and training.

[[Information Commissioner's Office](#)]

We have published a range of [guidance documents](#), to help you with your application.

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